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Zuckerberg: Facebook stock plunge 'disappointing'



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg said yesterday the plunge in the company's stock price since its public offering was "disappointing" but would not change the company's mission.

"The performance of the stock has obviously been disappointing and we care about our shareholders," Zuckerberg told a San Francisco conference, but said that over time, "we're going to be making more money on mobile than we make on desktop."

Zuckerberg appeared at the TechCrunch Disrupt SF 2012 conference, in his first public interview since the massive public offering May 18 that was hotly anticipated but ended up being a flop.

Facebook shares have lost around half their value since the IPO at \$38 a share.

Zuckerberg said that despite the disappointment, "we're going to execute this mission about making the world more connected."

Zuckerberg also sought to address critics who suggest the company is ill-prepared for a shift to mobile devices, where Facebook has only begun to get ad revenues.

"Now we are a mobile company," he said.

He said the company will seek to pursue its "mission" while seeking to make money for shareholders.

"We are a mission driven company," he said.

"Building a mission and building a business go hand in hand. From the beginning we've had this understanding we've had to do both."

But Zuckerberg said Facebook is not building its own mobile phone, despite some reports to the contrary.

"The phone just doesn't make any sense," Zuckerberg said in an interview at a San Francisco technology conference, brushing aside some reports from earlier this year.



Governor Fredis Refunjol, the appointed representative of Aruba of HRM Queen Beatrix, officially opened the 2012-2013 year of parliamentary sessions yesterday morning. The annual tradition is accompanied by inspection of an honor guard of Royal Dutch Marines outside the Parliament building, before Governor Refunjol addresses the gathered ministers, legislators and representatives of important NGO's and organizations in the auditorium.

The governor was officially welcomed by President of Parliament, Paul Croes, and invited to discourse on the state of the nation. Governor Refunjol addressed the current trials

Aruba faces with the transition of the San Nicolas refinery into a trans-shipment terminal by

Valero, and the economic challenges it will place on the island. He complimented various sectors of the community, such as the banks, which hold loans and mortgages, for uniting together to ease the impact on the employees and their families facing the consequences of the situation.

He commended the present administration's pro-active policies of community building, with such initiatives as the Social Dialog, Bo Bario program, and encouragement of small business while providing training programs for fledgling entrepreneurs.

Continued on page 5

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AAA reacts to media expressions related to suspension of employee

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) has taken notice of several publications and radio broadcasts about disciplinary measure taken against one of its employees.

As a general rule, AAA does not react in the press regarding individual employees, nor their disciplinary status. However, since in this case, the matter has become public and certain unfounded accusations are being made, AAA has decided to respond. By means of this release AAA wants to relay that the disciplinary

action taken against this particular AAA employee, is not based on his activities as trade-union representative.

AAA has always had the highest regard for union – relations and union representatives and has in fact recently closed a new collective working agreement that is beneficial for both parties and allows for time off with pay for union representatives. AAA respects union-rights, the applicable laws and treaties and has confirmed this position again in the current collective working agreement.

However, the fact is that when any employee, even if this employee is a union representative, acts in such a manner that the legitimate interests of his employer are jeopardized, AAA can not overlook the matter without giving the employee a disciplinary measure for his behavior and actions, even if the employee is a union-representative.

Like any other AAA employee, all employees that hold union positions are expected to act as a good employee and in the interests of AAA.

Aruba External Relations department announces Indian scholarships

ORANJESTAD -- The director of the Aruba Department of External Relations, Drs. Andy Lee, received an official visit from Mrs. Smita Purushottam, the Ambassador of India in Venezuela. During her visit here, Ambassador Purushottam presented the ITEC program to Aruba as one of the 158 countries who are partners of India and can participate in the program. This means that Aruba is part of the bilateral program of cooperation that the government of India is offering.

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) is the most important program of cooperation that the government of India offers, not only to a broad geographical coverage (158 countries), but also as an innovative partnership offering mutual benefits.

The program is based on a demand and focuses on the needs of countries in development.

Detailed information can be viewed on their website at



<http://itec.mea.gov.in>. You may download a pdf brochure with a complete list of all the courses and dates they are to be offered.

There are 3 reserved places for Aruba in the 2012 -2013 program.

In this program the government of India is offering 3 full scholarships for participants from Aruba interested in participating and qualifying for the course.

The website will provide the seeker with all relevant information and what the requirements are for being eligible for the program. There is also information on the cost of the program which the government of India will cover.

Continued on page 4

Venezuelan livestock expert visits Santa Rosa



Just recently Santa Rosa received a special visit from Raimundo Fuenmayor, Vice President of the Equipo Zuliano Para Cria, in Venezuela. Coincidentally, Fuenmayor is a repeat guest and Timeshare holder on Aruba.

After following the progress of Santa Rosa on Face book and through the media, Fuenmayor decided to pay Santa Rosa a personal visit to see for himself how Santa Rosa operates. He spent time conversing with newly appointed Director of Santa Rosa, Nathalie Maduro. Maduro introduced Fuenmayor to the recent developments at Santa Rosa and he shared what is happening in Venezuela regarding their livestock and agriculture program. They also explored the possibility for the interchange of ideas and experiences.

One important matter which was discussed is the recycling system and low expense sustainable projects for consumers that are practiced in Venezuela which could be applied and adapted in Aruba. Example of this is the use of recycled wooden pallets to fabricate steel or fences for livestock. They also discussed the importance of producing organic products for local consumption and the quality of products that can be produced

locally, like vegetables, meat, milk and cheese, etc.

They also discussed the prevention of diseases among the animals, which is controlled in Venezuela through an awareness program and funds for prevention. This information is very crucial for Santa Rosa. Here the Minister has instituted a commission to explore the possibility for changing the law on the import of livestock from Colombia, Venezuela and Brazil with the objective of reducing the high cost of importing from the USA. This would enable us to increase the number of animals for the local consumption of fresh meat.

Mr. Fuenmayor was impressed to see how Aruba's primary sector has developed in such a short period of time.

Fuenmayor had words of praise for the work of the new director and her staff and for the excellent performance of the Santa Rosa department.

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Luciano Milliard lectures at University



ORANJESTAD -- Political and Institutional Framework of Aruba was the topic of a lecture to senior class students in the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work & Development program of the University of Aruba by Luciano Milliard. Milliard's lecture was one of several as part of the course in Social Legislation and Policy.

Milliard has ample experience teaching constitutional rights. His goal in this parti-

cular lecture was to explain the relationship between theory and practice and to make the information as relevant as possible to students.

A focus on the political and judicial structure in Aruba:

According to Milliard, in order for social workers to do their job in a professional manner, they must be knowledgeable about the functioning of government and of

Parliament as well as of the social assistance and benefits of Aruba.

Aruba has her own laws and system but as a country Aruba also forms part of the Human Rights Program, and must adhere to international norms which also apply to us.

It is important, according to Milliard, for students to understand how the process of making political decisions influences the development of certain laws. He claims



that it is impossible for social workers to practice their profession without having this knowledge.

What's more, says Milliard, it's crucial that students know the critical role that the political and judicial structure has. This knowledge can be used to influence the welfare and human development of

vulnerable groups in our community.

The senior class students were enthusiastic about the first phase of this lecture series and actively participated in the discussion which followed.

Photos showing Milliard during his lecture at the University of Aruba.

10th Anniversary Teal Ribbon Week September 16-22



F.A.A. President Melva Croes-Yanez

Foundation Alzheimer Aruba (F.A.A.) announced they will be observing their tenth year of awareness raising events beginning with a commemorative Mass at the Fatima Church in Dakota on Sunday, September 16 at 6:00 PM. The week will be filled with a number of informative events for those living with Alzheimer's, their loved ones, and professional caregivers. This year's theme is "Stand up Against Stigma."

Teal Ribbon Week events will end on Saturday, September 22, with the traditional 5K Memory Walk, this year with Zumba, commencing at 5:00 PM from the parking lot of the Guillermo Trinidad Stadium in Dakota. Registration for the walk begins at 4:00. Registration fee is 5 Aruban florins per person, which entitles entrants to a tee shirt, fruit, refreshments and tickets for the great prizes from the annual raffle. Walkers are invited to be creative and form teams and groups.

F.A.A. will also be conducting programs on "Coping with a Loved One with Alzheimer's Related Disorders". A four day workshop on: Art Therapies for Individuals with Alzheimer's, with visiting lecturers Professor Dr. Robert Winter from North Carolina, and Professor Dr. Victor Fuenmayor from Venezuela, is scheduled from October 4-7, at the Holiday Inn.

Art therapies "have proven to be a very effective tool in understanding and communicating with those afflicted with Alzheimer's. They provide new ways to communicate, improved concentration, better behavior,



New logo white background

closer relationships, increase in freedom and spontaneity, calming of agitation, relief of isolation, and improved communication." Those attending the workshop will learn how to use the creative process of making art to improve a person's physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

"When Words Have Lost Their Meaning: The Person with Alzheimer's Communicate through Art". Is one of the workshops, "because though a person gradually loses the ability to express her/his self with words, other parts of their brain that deal with colors and body language can still be used to express their emotions and thoughts in a non-verbal way."

Four (4) days Workshops Fee: US \$200,- (AWG. 350,-), including Sunday's experiential workshop with caretakers. Sunday session is FREE for Caretakers of the participants. (Please register your caretaker: limited places available)

Fee Includes: Tuition, Materials and Certificate. Tea/Coffee, Pastries.

Book early, as there is limited space available (Max. 40). Fundacion Alzheimer Aruba (F.A.A.) reserves the right to retain 50% of the fee, in case of cancellations after September 30th, 2012.

Cancellation prior to September 30th will incur A \$30 (52 Florins) administrative handling charge.

Participants should wear comfortable, appropriate clothing.

Venue of the workshops: Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, J.E. Irausquin Blvd 230.

Versions of materials in English, Spanish and Papiamentu will be available at all workshops.

For more information and registration for workshops or the Memory Walk, contact F.A.A. President, Melva Croes-Yanez, at their offices on the Avenida Milo Croes 29 SUITE-C, telephone 582-1684, Email: alzheimer-aruba@gmail.com, or visit their website: www.alzheimer-aruba.org

by Rosalie Klein

Oil product prices rises today

ORANJESTAD

The Ministry of Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs announces to the general public that as of today, Wednesday, April 11, 2012, there will be changes in different oil product prices.



The new price for unleaded-premium gas will be 244.7 cent per liter, an increase of 16.0 cent per liter

The new price for diesel LS will be 214.4 cent per liter, an increase of 11.2

cent per liter.

The new price for kerosin will be 209.3 cent per liter, an increase of 12.7 cent per liter

In the new prices the BBO is already included.

Indian scholarships . . .

Continued from page 2

They will cover the cost of the return air ticket, the course fees, boarding and more.

The website will also provide the details regarding the selection process. Sufficient to mention here that the three candidates selected for Aruba will be based on an interview, their field of study and relevant work experience. The decision for issuing the scholarship is in the hands of the Ministry of External Relations of the government of India.

At the end of the course, it is expected that the student must provide feedback to the Ambassador to help with improving the program. The government of India considers the ITEC program an important vehicle for creating friendship and



world peace among nations.

The Aruba Department of External Relations is encouraging those interested to go to the website www.embindia.org and <http://itec.mea.gov.in> to get the necessary information about the program and the ITEC scholarship and to take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

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Continued from page 1



He tied this into the continuing efforts of the government to diversify an economy now even more dependent on tourism, with the downsizing of the refinery. He also examined the steps taken to diversify Aruba's tourism demographic, attracting wholesalers from strong

Latin American economies to boost visitors from these nations.

He also cited the worthy ambition of the current administration, and the steps taken, to see Aruba be a completely oil independent nation by 2020, with all energy coming from "green"

sources. This has attracted global attention, including commitment by the Carbon War Room cooperative to assist in seeing this become a reality.

Governor Refunjol's "State of the Union" address was generally positive, with optimism regarding the abil-



ity of the Aruban people and the current government to weather the storm of the refinery stoppage, while being resourceful in balancing it with positive action to maintain economic stability. He further cited government policy of investment for improved infrastructure and schools, the latter being the foundation of a better life for the next generation, and the continuance of prosperity for the entire island.

Parliamentary President

Paul Croes thanked Governor Refunjol for his remarks and invited him and government officials to retire to the halls for some refreshment. Each year, a class from an island school is selected to attend the official ceremony to understand and appreciate the workings of government. This year, it was Class 4 of the Filipe B. Tromp School, named for Aruba's first native born governor.

by Rosalie Klein

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Euro-MPs press E.European countries over secret CIA prisons

STRASBOURG (AFP) - European Union member states accused of having hosted secret CIA jails in the wake of the 9/11 attacks should come clean on the issue, said a resolution approved yesterday by the European Parliament.

The non-binding resolution targeted Lithuania, Poland and Romania in particular.

They were urged to shed more light on allegations that they had hosted secret prisons used by the US Central Intelligence Agency for its controversial rendition program in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The resolution was based on a new report submitted to the parliament by French Greens MEP Helene Flautre.

Welcoming the vote, she said: "The report supports the existence of a vast, secret and illegal system that led to acts of torture and forced disappearances."

"It is based on new facts revealed, in particular, in aerial databases held by Eurocontrol," she added. Eurocontrol is responsible for air traffic control and safety in EU territory.

The resolution, which was adopted by 568 votes to 34, with 77 abstentions, declared: "Only genuine national security grounds can justify se-

crecy."

It denounced the obstacles it said some member states had put in the way of probes by national parliaments and the judiciary into the CIA program.

"Lack of transparency, classification of documents, prevalence of national and political interests (...) lack of rigorous investigative techniques and of cooperation" are among these obstacles," the resolution added.

It called on Romania to reopen inquiries into alleged CIA detention centers on its territory in the light of new evidence of flights between Romania and Lithuania.

It also called on Lithuania to cooperate.

And it urged Poland to persevere in an ongoing criminal probe into the secret detention centers said to have operated there, while deploring the government's silence on the investigation.

The resolution also called on several other member states to fully disclose any relevant information they might have on the issue of secret CIA flights on their territory.

It named Britain, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain.

US confirms protesters breached Cairo embassy wall

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A group of protesters scaled the wall at the US embassy in Cairo yesterday and tore down the Stars and Stripes, a US State Department official confirmed.

"We had some people breach the wall, take the flag down and replace it," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said, adding that so far there had not been any reports of injuries.

US voices hope for new era in Somalia

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States yesterday congratulated the new president of Somalia, voicing hope the election of Hassan Sheikh Mohamud will mark a new era for the African nation torn by two decades of war.

"We look forward to working with him," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told journalists, adding that Monday's presidential vote was "the final step in the roadmap to end the transition."

"It's also a hopeful sign for the new era of Somali governance," she said, highlighting security gains made in the Horn of Africa nation by an African Union mission and Somali national forces.

The White House late Monday also sent congratulations to the "Somali people for completing this momentous political transition" which it said marked "an important milestone" for the country.

Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, a 56-year-old university lecturer, who is little known outside his country, defied predictions and was chosen by lawmakers as Somalia's new president from among a dozen hopefuls.

"What I heard was that it was replaced with a... plain black flag. But I may not be correct in that," she added, asked if it was an Al-Qaeda flag.

An AFP photographer said some 3,000 demonstrators, most of them hardline Islamist supporters of the Salafist movement or football fans, gathered at the Cairo mission to protest a film deemed offensive to the Prophet Mohammed.

A dozen men scaled the embassy walls and one of them tore down the US flag, replacing it with a black one inscribed with the Muslim profession of faith: "There is no God but God and Mohammed is the prophet of God."

The film was apparently produced by expatriate members of Egypt's Christian minority resident in the United States.

Three people found shot dead in car in France

AJACCIO (AFP) - Three people were found shot dead yesterday in a car dumped in a ditch on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica, a source close to the inquiry into their killings said.

The bodies were found in a mountain village near the town of Corte in the north of the island, which has suffered three decades of low-level violence

by separatists opposed to French rule.

The victims, who the source said had probably been ambushed, were found by a driver who had spotted the car in the ditch.

The three victims, who are Corsican but whose identities have not been confirmed, were known to the police, the source



WARSAW : Photo shows the cover of the Egzorcysta monthly in Warsaw. With exorcism booming in Poland, Roman Catholic priests here have joined forces with a publisher to launch what they claim is the world's first monthly magazine focused exclusively on chasing out the devil. "The rise in the number of exorcists from four to more than 120 over the course of 15 years in Poland is telling," Father Aleksander Posacki, a professor of philosophy, theology and leading demonologist and exorcist told reporters in Warsaw at the September 10 launch of the Egzorcysta monthly. (AFP PHOTO)

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If Iran builds bomb, US has a year to act: Panetta

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States would have about a year to take action if Iran decided to build nuclear weapons and the American military is well-prepared if the moment comes, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said in a television interview yesterday.

The Pentagon chief told "CBS This Morning" that it would take Iran some time to construct a nuclear device once the Tehran leadership chose to go ahead.

Asked how much time it would take, Panetta replied: "It's roughly about a year right now. A little more than a year."

"And so, we think we will have the opportunity once we know that they've made that decision, to take the action necessary to stop the program."

Panetta's comments come amid tension with Iran over its nuclear program as well as growing friction between the United States and Israel over the urgency of the threat posed by Tehran's uranium enrichment work.

Israeli leaders have portrayed Iran as on the verge of securing nuclear weapons and warned US officials that a "zone of immunity" could soon emerge in which it would be too late to stage bombing raids to derail Tehran's program.

President Barack Obama's administration has taken a more cautious approach, suggesting there is still time to allow sanctions to take effect and for more potential sabotage of Iran's nuclear sites, according to analysts and former officials.

Panetta said US spy agencies are able to track Iran's nuclear project and assess how close the Islamic republic may be towards achieving the capability to build an atomic bomb.

"We have pretty good intelligence on them. We know generally what they're up to. And so we keep a close track on them," he said.



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Mine death toll rises as S.Africa's Malema urges stayaways

CARLETONVILLE, South Africa (AFP) - The death toll in South Africa's month-long Lonmin platinum strike rose to 45 yesterday, as maverick former youth leader Julius Malema urged more stoppages in the vital mining sector.

A man's hacked body was found at the platinum giant's Marikana mine, where police last month gunned down 34

strikers in a wildcat stayaway, as the mine unrest over wage demands spread to Gold Fields where 15,000 people have downed tools.

"A body of a man was found dead," said police spokesman Thulani Ngubane. "He seems to have been hit with a sharp object," he told AFP, after local media reported that the corpse had two gashes

in the head.

Tensions have been rising at the mine where workers have refused to return to work since downing tools on August 10 unless the world's number three platinum producer bows to demands for a wage hike to 12,500 rand (\$1,526).

Their call was taken up by Malema yesterday who urged workers at Gold Fields to

strike for five days every month until mining giants bow to an across-the-board basic salary demand for the same amount.

"If they don't meet your demand, we are going to strike every month for five days until we reach 12,500 rand," Malema told a cheering crowd of around 3,000.

"This is a serious revolu-

tion, don't give up!" he said. "You must render the mines ungovernable."

Expelled earlier this year from the ruling African National Congress (ANC) for ill-discipline, Malema has capitalised on the mining unrest to push his radical views and to take political shots at his enemy President Jacob Zuma.

Health and Living

Ground Zero cancer victims to get compensation



NEW YORK (AFP) - About 50 types of cancer will be added to the list of diseases eligible for coverage in a compensation program for people who became sick after the World Trade Center collapse on September 11, 2001, officials announced.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health said it had confirmed a recommendation made in June to include the cancers, which break down into 14 categories.

A \$4.3 billion fund is available for 9/11 health victims but until now cancer sufferers -- believed to be in the many hundreds -- have not been able to place claims of their own.

Until now, most of the aid recipients, including local residents and emergency services personnel, have received compensation for respiratory diseases linked to the toxic dust and fumes from the fallen towers.

In the ruling, some cancers

are excluded, but 14 broad categories, containing dozens of different types, are included and sufferers would qualify for free treatment and compensation.

Despite huge sympathy and political backing for victims of 9/11, the compensation decision has been held up by the scarcity of evidence of a direct link between the World Trade Center tragedy and cancer.

The pool of money for the overall health program will not be expanded.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg welcomed the news, "We have urged from the very beginning that the decision whether or not to include cancer be based on science," he said.

"Dr Howard's decision, made after thorough consideration of the latest available research and data, will continue to ensure that those who have become ill due to the heinous attacks on 9/11 get the medical care they need and deserve."

Dengue fever: Vaccine trial raises a muted cheer



PARIS (AFP) - A prototype vaccine for dengue notched up the best success yet against the disease but failed to protect against all its viral strains, researchers reported on Tuesday.

Tested among just over 4,000 children in rural Thailand who were badly exposed to the mosquito-borne fever, the vaccine had no side effects but only worked against three out of the four dengue strains.

The outcome shows that the quest is far from over, but the good news is "a safe vaccine against dengue is possible", the researchers said in The Lancet.

According to the UN's World Health Organisation (WHO), between 50 and 100 million dengue infections

occur each year in more than 100 countries. In 1970, the disease was endemic in just nine countries.

Half a million people each year develop severe dengue, a feverish condition requiring hospitalisation.

But the search for the vaccine has been complicated by the fact that there are four different strains -- known as DENV 1, 2, 3 and 4 -- all of which may circulate in an outbreak zone.

Adding to the problem is that dengue seems to be exclusive to humans, which means it is impossible to test vaccines on lab animals first.

As a result, trials have to proceed with even greater caution than usual, and the for-

mula has to be built up incrementally, on what has previously been tested.

The candidate vaccine, CYD-TPV, was given to 2,669 children in three doses, while 1,333 were given a harmless lookalike called a placebo to act as a comparison.


The trial was a so-called Phase IIb, meaning a stepped-up test in the long three-phase process by which new drugs are tested for safety and effectiveness.

In the vaccine group, 76 children, or 2.8 percent, fell diagnosed with dengue, compared with 58 cases, or 4.4 percent, among the control group.

But among the inoculated children, protection against DENV 1, 3, 4 was 55.6 percent, 75.3 percent and 100 percent -- but against DENV 2, it was just 9.2 percent. Overall, the protection was just 30.2 percent.

French pharmaceutical giant Sanofi Pasteur said that despite this disappointment, the story was not yet over.

Phase III trials of CYD-TPV are underway in several other countries, where different conditions may give a different outcome or, possibly, tips for a solution to widen the vaccine's shield.



Taj Mahal

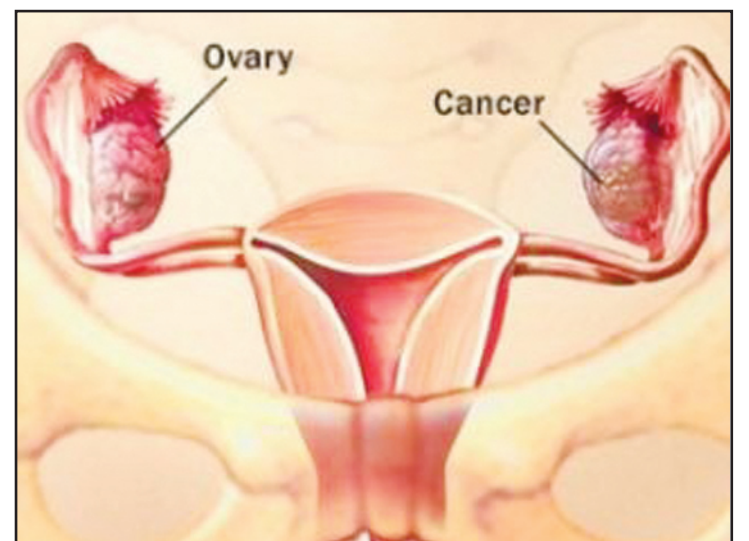
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Routine screening for ovarian cancer a failure: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Routine screening for ovarian cancer is ineffective and at times can do more harm than good, a panel of cancer specialists has concluded.

"There is no existing method of screening for ovarian cancer that is effective in reducing deaths," said US Preventive Services Task Force member and chair Dr Virginia Moyer.

"In fact, a high percentage of women who undergo screening experience false-positive test results and consequently may be subjected to unnecessary harms, such as major surgery," added Moyer in a statement on the group's

website and in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

The tests include ovarian scans and blood tests that look at a marker that can be linked to the disease.

The group said they are not recommended routinely for women who do not show signs of the disease, or who have genetic mutations (BRCA1 and BRCA2) that put them at a greater risk of developing it.

Other medical groups already have made similar recommendations including the "American Cancer Society" and "American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists."

Ovarian cancer is fairly rare.



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Sci-Tech

Sailboat navigates once-frozen Arctic waterway



MONTREAL (AFP) - A three-man sailing expedition for the first time has navigated the once-frozen Northwest Passage, a perilous Arctic route made accessible only because of melting caused by global warming.

The Swedish sailboat, the 9.4 meter (31 foot) Belzebug II, navigated through McClure Strait, northernmost waterway on the edge of the Canadian Northwest Territories.

The crew -- American Morgan Peissel, Canadian Nicolas Peissel and the

Swedish owner of the vessel, Edvin Buregren, 35 -- said it was the first time that a vessel other than an icebreaker had breached the passage.

They chronicled their three month long expedition on their website belzebug2.com.

The voyage took them from Newfoundland, Canada to Greenland and through the Canadian Arctic, on their quest to document the rapidly dwindling polar ice and to bring awareness to the effects of global warming.

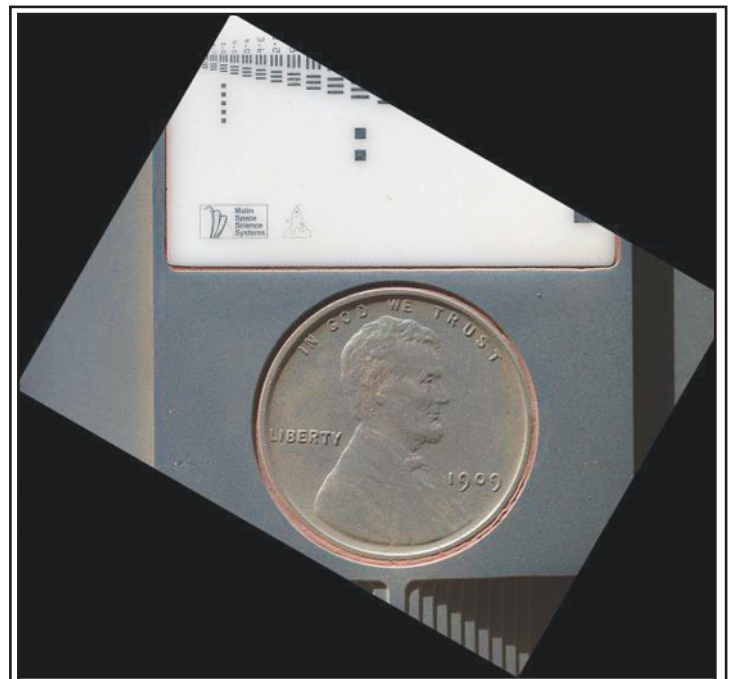
"By sailing this newly-

opened route we hope that our expedition will play a small part in bringing further attention to climate change and contributing to a larger shift in attitudes," they wrote on their site.

"The Arctic is melting at an alarming rate and is clear proof of our disharmony with the planet," they wrote.

"Our approach to sail across a historical stretch of water that has traditionally been frozen is meant to be a clear visual example of the extent of declining polar ice."

The vessel is due to sail into Nome, Alaska, today.



SPACE, - : The penny in this image is part of a camera calibration target on NASA's Mars rover Curiosity taken by the Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI) camera on Mars. The penny is a nod to geologists' tradition of placing a coin or other object of known scale as a size reference in close-up photographs of rocks, and it gives the public a familiar object for perceiving size easily when it will be viewed by MAHLI on Mars. The specific coin, provided by MAHLI's principal investigator, Ken Edgett, is a 1909 "VDB" penny. That was the first year Lincoln pennies were minted and the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The VDB refers to the initials of the coin's designer, Victor D. Brenner, which are on the reverse side. Brenner based the coin's low-relief portrait of Lincoln on a photograph taken Feb. 9, 1864, by Anthony Berger in the Washington, D.C. studio of Mathew Brady.

AFP PHOTO



SAN FRANCISCO : Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks at the TechCrunch Disrupt SF 2012 conference on September 11, 2012 in San Francisco, in his first public interview since the massive public offering on May 18 that was hotly anticipated but ended up being a flop. Facebook is not building its own mobile phone, despite some reports to the contrary, Zuckerberg said, adding the phone would be "clearly the wrong strategy" to adopt.

AFP PHOTO

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CELEBRITY GOSSIP

ACROSS

1. Murdered
5. Denmark cape, with "The"
9. Pro or con, e.g.
13. Duck out of sight
14. Of the ancient Carthaginians
16. Russian mountain
17. Playwright William
18. Fatuous
19. Controversial Court nominee
20. Invasive star of "Cast Away"
23. Letters with 3 on a phone
24. Sensory organ
25. Shiftless "All My Children" star
33. Oregon evergreen

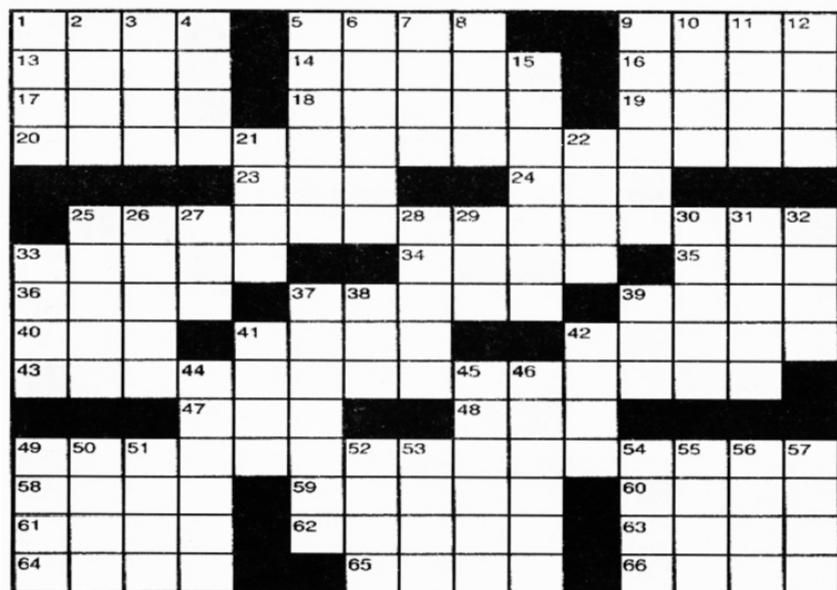
34. Shrub
35. Mo. w/o a major holiday
36. Judo move
37. Wise men
39. Height: prefix
40. Resident: suffix
41. Jane Austen's meddler
42. Active
43. Sapient ex of Madonna
47. Tyke
48. Above, poetically
49. Active "Shane" star
58. Assn. for Venezuela and Qatar
59. Like many "Twilight Zone" episodes
60. Stray
61. Noon, in Nimes
62. Remove frost

63. Conversant with
64. Bench
65. Head 'em off locale
66. Richard of "First Knight"

DOWN

1. Consign
2. Dead or head ender
3. Periphery
4. Be in need of a hanky
5. Porcupine features
6. Bruce Lee's expertise
7. Med. school course
8. Drunkard
9. Justy, for one
10. Geritol's promise
11. "A Shot in the"
12. Tundra wanderers

15. Unites
21. Pastoral poem
22. A-OK, healthwise
25. Golden Globe winner Christine
26. East Indian wood
27. Comix (R. Crumb)
28. Popeye's creator
29. Had lunch
30. Nopal and turk's-head
31. Famed physicist
32. Sikorsky or Stravinsky
33. Clumsy boat
37. Made all smeary
38. Actress Breneman
39. Cigar residue
41. Actor Eddie ("The French Connection")
42. 1 of 2,219,791 at Yellowstone
44. Evoke
45. Four-syllable feet
46. Snickers
49. Name for a homey restaurant
50. Mayberry sheriff's son
51. Body of Hindu writings
52. Mondale, once
53. Opera highlight
54. "Rich Man's" ("Sweet Charity" song)
55. Stride effortlessly
56. Novello of "The Lodger"
57. Hawaiian goose



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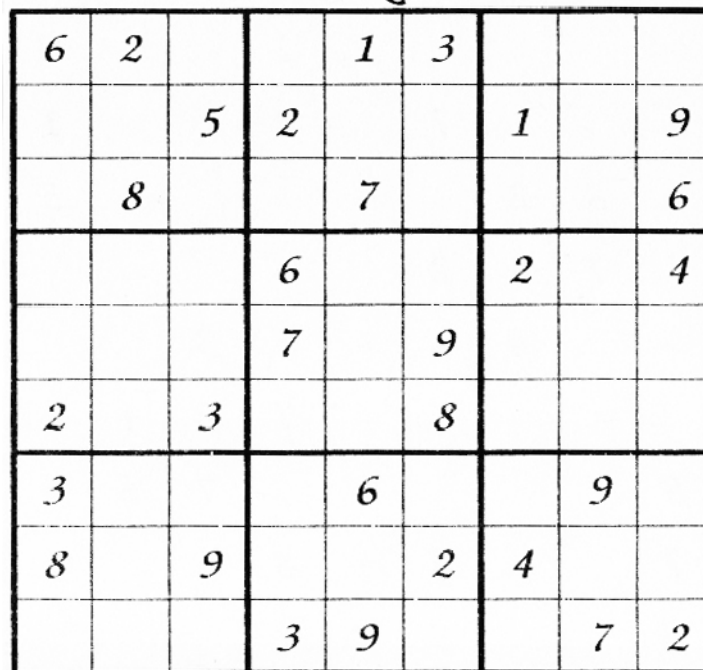
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

7	4	8	5	6	9	3	1	2
9	6	2	3	1	6	7	8	4
1	6	5	4	9	8	2	7	3
4	1	6	8	7	5	9	2	3
5	9	6	2	7	4	1	8	3
8	7	1	9	3	6	5	4	2
9	2	3	5	4	7	1	6	8
6	8	1	9	8	2	5	3	7
8	5	4	1	6	7	2	9	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Whistleblower wins \$104 mn for revealing UBS fraud

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US authorities have awarded former UBS banker Bradley Birkenfeld a \$104 million for blowing the whistle on the Swiss bank's tax fraud, a whistleblowers group said yesterday.

"This is believed to be the largest reward ever given to an individual whistleblower in the United States and the first major reward issued under the IRS tax whistleblower law," the National Whistleblowers Center said in a statement.

Birkenfeld earned the reward from the Internal Revenue Service for providing the US government with "insider information on UBS's illegal offshore banking scheme," said the Washington-based nonprofit organization.

National Whistleblowers said his disclosures directly resulted in UBS paying a \$780

million fine to the US.

"Mr. Birkenfeld's disclosures also forced the Swiss government to change its tax treaty with the United States, resulting in UBS turning over the names of over 4,900 US taxpayers who held illegal offshore accounts. These 'taxpayers' are now being investigated and prosecuted," the center said.

The UBS case was part of a broad push by US tax authorities to gain information on accounts held overseas by Americans allowing them to avoid US taxation.

According to National Whistleblowers, more than 35,000 taxpayers have come forward to participate in so-called amnesty programs to voluntarily repatriate their illegal offshore accounts and the US has collected over \$5 billion in back taxes, fines and penalties.

European lawmakers demand women candidates for ECB job

STRASBOURG (AFP) - European lawmakers yesterday blocked the nomination of Luxembourg's Yves Mersch to a top job on the all-male European Central Bank's executive board, demanding governments come up with female candidates instead.

The parliament's economics committee said it would not take up Mersch's candidacy and called on Luxembourg

Premier Jean-Claude Juncker - who is also head of the Eurogroup of finance ministers -- to give an explanation to parliament.

The issue has been building since eurozone finance ministers nominated Luxembourg central bank chief Mersch in July to replace Spain's Manuel Gonzalez Paramo in what was seen as a political deal.

Moody's warns could lower US triple-A rating

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Moody's warned yesterday it could strip the United States of its coveted triple-A credit rating if Congress fails to produce a budget that will bring down the federal debt burden.

"Budget negotiations during the 2013 Congressional legislative session will likely determine the direction of the US government's Aaa rating and negative outlook," the ratings firm said in a statement.

If the negotiations lead to specific policies that produce a stabilization and then downward trend in the ratio of federal debt to GDP over the medium term, the rating will likely be affirmed and the outlook returned to stable, it said.

"If those negotiations fail to produce such policies, however, Moody's would expect to lower the rating, probably to Aa1," the ratings agency said as it issued a new report, "Update of the Outlook for the US Government Debt Rating."

The Moody's warning came less than two months before the November 6 election, with President Barack Obama fighting a close race for re-election against Republican foe Mitt Romney, and a congressional vote that could sway the balance of power between the parties.

Currently, Democrats dominate the Senate and Republicans control the House of Representatives.

Moody's said it was unlikely it would keep the Aaa rating with a negative outlook into 2014.

"The only scenario that would likely lead to its temporary maintenance would be if

the method adopted to achieve debt stabilization involved a large, immediate fiscal shock - such as would occur if the so-called 'fiscal cliff' actually materialized -- which could lead to instability," it said.

The fiscal cliff -- a mandated mixture of spending cuts and tax hikes -- is set to occur at the beginning of 2013, unless bitterly divided lawmakers can find a way to avoid it.

John Boehner, the Republican House speaker, said yesterday it was unlikely a deal to avoid the fiscal cliff could be reached.

"I'm not confident at all," Boehner said in response to a

reporter's question. "Listen, the House has done its job" on the fiscal cliff "that will cost our economy some 700,000 jobs."

"The Senate at some point has to act. And on both of these, where is the president? Where's the leadership? Absent without leave."

Moody's said if the fiscal cliff happened, it would need evidence "that the economy could rebound from the shock before it would consider returning to a stable outlook."

Mufteeva Inna, an analyst at Natixis, noted that Moody's final outcome depended heavily on the November 6 election results.

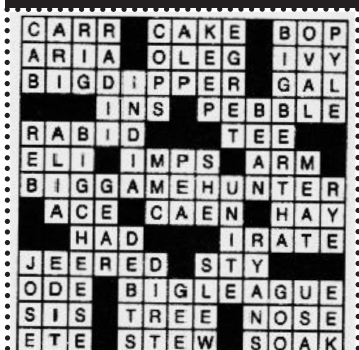


MANILA : A crane stacks shipping containers of Philippine products for export at the international container port in Manila on September 11, 2012. The Philippines economy grew a better-than-expected 5.9 percent in the second quarter, boosted by increased investment and a drive against corruption, the government said on August 30.



Photo shows shoppers outside a Harvey Norman store. Australian retail sales declined in July by the most in almost two years and company profits dropped for a third straight quarter according to the latest figure released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on September 3.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
09/04/2012				
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.81	1.83	1.85
Britain	GBP	2.79	2.84	2.90
Switzerland	CHF	188.45	189.17	189.97
Netherlands	EUR	225.68	227.74	230.03
Sweden	SEK	25.88	26.60	27.40
Denmark	DKK	29.59	30.31	31.11
Norway	NOK	29.86	30.58	31.38
Japan	JPY	226.36	228.43	230.72
(per 100)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100.00 per item.				

Obama praises 9/11 unity on low-key anniversary



U.S. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama observe a moment of silence on the 11th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington.



US President Barack Obama listens to the National Anthem during a memorial near where American Airlines flight 77 was crashed into the Pentagon.



A firefighter's hat sits on names of firefighters who died at the South Pool of the World Trade Center

NEW YORK (AFP) - President Barack Obama lauded American unity Tuesday as the country marked a somber but low-key anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks under crisp blue skies poignantly reminiscent of 11 years ago.

"The true legacy of 9/11 will not be one of fear or hate or division," Obama said at the Pentagon near Washington. "It will be a safer world, a stronger nation, and a people more united than ever before."

Highlighting what he said were the "crippling" blows

dealt against Al-Qaeda and the killing last year of Osama bin Laden, Obama said the United States is "even stronger."

As every year, relatives of the nearly 3,000 people killed when Al-Qaeda hijackers slammed airliners into New York's World Trade Center gathered at Ground Zero to read out the names of the dead.

The flawless blue sky was identical to the one 11 years ago when millions of people watched from the streets and live on television as the planes flew straight into the upper floors of the Twin Towers,

causing them to collapse.

However, emotions are distinctly cooler as America finally tries to draw a line under an event that sparked the decade of Washington's controversial and expensive war on terror.

No politicians joined in the reading at Ground Zero and security was less intense, in contrast to the 10th anniversary last year when Obama headed a long list of VIPs at the ceremony.

June Pollicino, who lost her husband on 9/11, told AFP: "I feel much more relaxed. After the ninth anniversary, those next days it started building up to the 10th anniversary. This year it's different in that regard. It's another anniversary we can celebrate in a discreet way."

In total, 2,983 names were read out at Ground Zero, including the 9/11 victims and those killed in the precursor to those attacks, the 1993 car bombing of the World Trade Center.

The reading paused for silence at the exact time each of the four planes turned into fireballs -- two smashing into the Twin Towers, one into the Pentagon and one into a Pennsylvania field.

Another two moments of silence were observed at the times the two main towers of the World Trade Center collapsed, accounting for the vast majority of 9/11's dead.

Obama, who earlier stood for a moment's silence on the White House South Lawn, had no planned political events planned Tuesday and his re-election campaign planned to halt television advertising for the day.

Helping to heal the wounds are the new memorial at Ground Zero and the near



Members of the American Brothers New York Motorcycle Club pause at the South Tower during ceremonies.

completion of the main skyscraper at the World Trade Center, now officially the tallest building in New York.

The memorial's long delayed museum now also ap-

pears set to be opened after Mayor Michael Bloomberg and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo reached an accord late Monday over funding.

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Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers,

airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee.



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All

Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



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Stunning sunset



Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable.

La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view,



Osso Buco with Risotto

recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. Reservations can be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-latratortoria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.

SPORTS

Football: Japan tighten World Cup grip, Iran shocked

SINGAPORE (AFP) - Japan strengthened their iron grip on World Cup qualifying Group B Tuesday but mighty Iran were sent spinning to their first ever defeat to outsiders Lebanon.

As Japan beat Iraq 1-0 in Saitama, Group A leaders South Korea were held to a pulsating 2-2 draw by Uzbekistan.

Tuesday's other two matches produced shocks as Lebanon had Shandong Luneng midfielder Roda Antar to thank for a famous 1-0 win over Iran that raised hopes of an unlikely World Cup berth.

Later Jordan franked that result with a stunning 2-1 win over Australia that sent the winners into second behind Japan and left the losers struggling to qualify for their third successive World Cup finals appearance.

In the 28th minute in Beirut, China-based Antar rose to head home a free-kick, a goal that proved enough to lift Lebanon off the foot of Group A and put them three points behind pace-setters South Korea.

The top two teams from two groups of five gain automatic entry to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, while the two third-placed countries will go into a play-off series.

Japan were hit by the late withdrawal of Manchester United's Shinji Kagawa with a lower back twinge, and they weathered an early storm from a makeshift Iraq side marshalled by former Blue Samurrai coach Zico.

But the hosts earned the crucial breakthrough when Stuttgart's Shinji Okazaki fed Jubilo Iwata striker Ryoichi Maeda in the six-yard box to nod home the game's only goal on 25 minutes.

The dangerous Ahmed Yaseen extended Japan's keeper Eiji Kawashima with a goal-bound shot but the hosts looked more comfortable after the break, with CSKA



Iraq's forward Alaa Abdul Zahrah (L) fights for the ball with Japan's midfielder and captain Makoto Hasebe, Japan defeated Iraq 1-0.

Moscow playmaker Keisuke Honda a particular threat.

"We want to win the ticket to the World Cup as quickly as possible," said coach Alberto Zaccheroni. "I'm going to start thinking about our next game," he added.

Japan, seeking their fifth consecutive World Cup appearance, have 10 points from their first four games, including earlier wins against Jordan and Oman and a 1-1 away draw with Australia.

Japan are not in action again until November 14, when they are away against Oman. Kagawa meanwhile gave assurances that his back strain, sustained during training, was "not that serious" and should not keep him out for long.

Meanwhile in Tashkent, hosts Uzbekistan took a valuable point from their game with Group A pace-setters South Korea, which ended 2-2 after a frenetic 90 minutes.

Uzbekistan snatched the

net, but 2002 World Cup semi-finalists South Korea got back on terms just before half-time through a header by skipper Kwak Tae-Hwi.

Veteran striker Lee Dong-Gook fired the visitors ahead in the 57th minute but Sanjar Tursunov headed Uzbekistan's equaliser two minutes later to ensure that the points were shared.

Although South Korea dropped points for the first time in the final qualifying round, they remained top of Group A with seven points from three games.

Uzbekistan, however, still have plenty of work to do if they hope to qualify for their first World Cup as they remain winless with only two points from the same number of matches.

Australia's 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign suffered a shattering blow when they crashed to the humiliating defeat by Jordan in Amman.

Already under pressure following two consecutive draws against Oman and Japan in Group B, the Socceroos appeared overwhelmed at the packed King Abdullah Stadium.

Hassan Abdel-Fattah scored a penalty in the 51st minute and Amer Deeb struck in the 73rd for Jordan before Archie Thompson pulled one back for Australia in the 85th.



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Germany edge combative Austria



Austria's Zlatko Junuzovic (R) falls as he vies with Germany's Manuel Neuer (C)

VIENNA (AFP) - Germany edged a combative Austria 2-1 to confirm their top spot in Group C after Tuesday's 2014 World Cup qualifier in Vienna.

After a 3-0 victory against the Faroe Islands in Friday's first qualifier, Germany secured another three points thanks to goals in either half from Marco Reus and Mesut Ozil to stay top of Group C with six points, ahead of Ireland and Sweden, who defeated Kazakhstan 2-0 on Tuesday.

Werder Bremen midfielder Zlatko Junuzovic saved Austrian honour with a 57th-minute goal in their first match of the campaign in front of 47,000 spectators at the sold-out Ernst Happel Stadium.

An Austria side containing nine players who ply their trade in the German Bundesliga had started strongly, with a first chance after just three minutes, but Bayern Munich defender Holger Badstuber got between VfB Stuttgart's Martin Harnik and goal.

Although the Germans tried to fight back, their opponents had the best chances of the

half, with Harnik and veteran international Andreas Ivanschitz shooting just wide of the net on several occasions.

Borussia Dortmund's Reus finally broke the deadlock a minute before half time, slotting a Miroslav Klose assist past Austrian goalkeeper Robert Almer.

The Germans were then awarded a penalty seven minutes into the second half when Austria's Veli Kavlak brought down Thomas Mueller.

Dutch referee Bjoern Kuipers pointed to the spot, and Real Madrid's Ozil expertly converted to make it 2-0.

The Austrians' early fighting spirit reappeared however as Junuzovic hit the back of the net five minutes later.

A mistake by German skipper Philipp Lahm almost allowed Guido Burgstaller to equalise with 20 minutes left, but further pressing by the Austrians failed to alter the scoreline, despite a couple of good chances for Marko Arnautovic.

Austria's Swiss coach Marcel Koller regretted that his team's performance did not secure at least one point.

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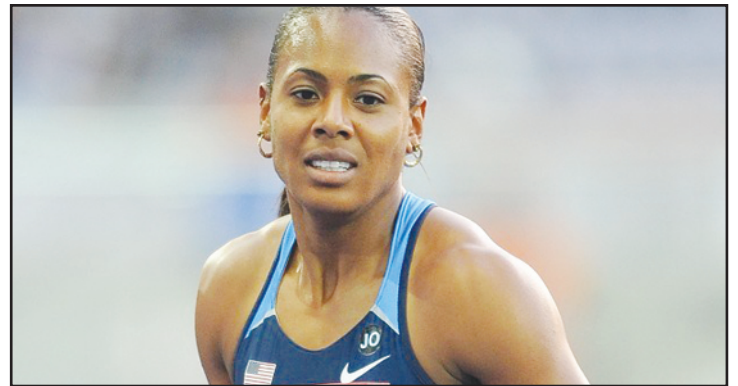
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Athletics: American Dunn banned two years for doping



COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AFP) - US athlete Debbie Dunn has been banned for two years after testing positive for a banned steroid at the US Olympic trials in June, the US Anti-Doping Agency said

Tuesday.

Dunn was first alerted of a positive test result in July shortly, after the US Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon.

The 34-year-old athlete, who didn't qualify to race an individual event in London but had earned a place in the pool of 4x400m relay candidates, withdrew from the US team for London saying she didn't want her case to be a distraction as she awaited the final outcome.

USADA said in a statement on Tuesday that Dunn's positive test for an anabolic agent had been confirmed.

"Dunn, 34, accepted a two-year period of ineligibility, which began on August 1, 2012, the date she accepted a provisional suspension," USADA's statement said. "As a result of the sanction, Dunn has been disqualified from all competitive results achieved on and subsequent to June 22, 2012, the date the US Olympic Team Trials began, including forfeiture of any medals, points, and prizes."

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NBA: Seattle officials OK new arena

SEATTLE (AFP) - The Seattle City Council has agreed to a deal with investor Christopher Hansen to build a \$490 million arena that could host NBA and NHL teams as well as concerts and other events.

City officials confirmed the deal on Tuesday saying it could be the start of bringing an NBA team back to the city.

The former Seattle SuperSonics moved to Oklahoma City after a deal to have a

new arena built in Seattle failed to materialize in 2008.

The team was re-named the Thunder in a deal with the NBA and Seattle officials with the hope that one day an expansion team or another relocated NBA franchise could move to Seattle and pick up the SuperSonics' name and history.

"This agreement marks an exciting day in Seattle as we take a big step towards bringing back the Sonics," said councilman Mike O'Brien, who said the deal included provisions for improved transportation infrastructure and other benefits for the city at large.

The agreement also includes financial protections for the city and King County. Hansen's investor group, ArenaCo, must double the security reserve if its revenue fails to meet expectations. At the end of the 30-year arena use agreement, the city and county can require ArenaCo to purchase the land and facility for \$200 million.

Russia welcomes their Paralympic team



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (front) addresses the national paralympic team as they meet in Moscow's Kremlin on September 11, 2012. Russia's paralympic team returned from London after taking part in the Paralympic Games 2012. AFP PHOTO

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Murray wins US Open epic, ends 76-year British agony



NEW YORK (AFP) - History-making Andy Murray ended Britain's 76-year wait for a men's Grand Slam champion when he beat 2011 winner Novak Djokovic 7-6 (12/10), 7-5, 2-6, 3-6, 6-2 in an epic US Open final on Monday.

Murray became Britain's first major champion since Fred Perry claimed his third American title in 1936, the year the Spanish Civil War started and Franklin D. Roosevelt was re-elected US president.

In a roller-coaster final, which witnessed a 54-shot rally, numerous 30-stroke exchanges, as well as a record-setting tie-breaker, the 25-year-old Murray held his nerve in a knife-edge final set.

The Olympic champion led 3-0 in the decider, dropped serve but broke again for 5-2 when Djokovic called a medical time-out.

But Murray wasn't to be denied, taking the historic crown when Djokovic went long with a forehand on a second match point in what was, at four hours and 54 minutes, the second-longest US Open final of all time.

Murray insisted it was a huge relief to finally have captured a major and put an end to the questions over whether or not he would do it.

Murray paid tribute to coach Ivan Lendl, who lost three finals in New York from 1982-1984 before clinching three titles in a row from 1985-1987.

Djokovic admitted Murray was a worthy winner.

"Any loss is a bad loss. I'm disappointed to lose the match, but in the back of my mind I knew that I gave it all. I really, really tried to fight my way back through," said Djokovic.

"I had a great opponent today. He deserved to win this Grand Slam more than anybody because over the years he's been a top player. He's been so close; lost four finals. Now he has won it, so I would like to congratulate him."

Murray had lost all of his four previous Grand Slam finals -- to Roger Federer at the US Open in 2008, the 2010 Australian Open and this year's Wimbledon, as well as to Djokovic in Australia in 2011.

Meanwhile yesterday British leaders, tennis chiefs and former players hailed Andy Murray's grit after the Scot became the first British man to win a Grand Slam since 1936.

Murray was offered the freedom of his local city, as British Prime Minister David Cameron said his five-set defeat of Serbia's Novak Djokovic in the US Open final was continuing Britain's "golden summer of sport" following the Olympics and Paralympics.

"I'm absolutely delighted for him. It is a huge achievement," Cameron said outside his 10 Downing Street office.

Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond said the 25-year-old was now a "legend" in his homeland.

"Congratulations to Andy Murray on what was a fantastic performance," he said in a statement.

Stirling Council, which presides over Murray's central Scotland hometown Dunblane, said it was looking to give the tennis star a homecoming fit for a hero

Olympics: Ostapchuk in the dark as coach gets four-year ban



MINSK (AFP) - Disgraced Belarus shot putter Nadezhda Ostapchuk was on Tuesday handed a one-year ban after testing positive for a banned anabolic steroid that cost her Olympic gold.

The sentence was lenient because Ostapchuk was completely in the dark that she had doped, according to Alexander Vanhadlo, the head of Belarus' anti-doping agency.

Vanhadlo said that Ostapchuk's coach, Alexander Yefimov, was the only person responsible for the violation of the doping code and was banned for four years.

"Yefimov confessed that he added the banned drug metenolone into Ostapchuk's food because he was worried by her unimpressive results ahead of the Olympics," Vanhadlo told the press.

"Yefimov said that he did

it at the training base in Belarus just days before the start of the Games without Ostapchuk's knowledge."

Ostapchuk became the first medallist disqualified from the London Games for doping and was stripped of her women's Olympic shot put title.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) awarded gold to New Zealand's Valerie Adams after Ostapchuk provided two urine samples which were both found to contain metenolone.

Russia's Yevgeniya Kolodko was upgraded to silver medal position, with Lijiao Gong of China taking bronze.

Ostapchuk had been competing in her third Olympics in London. She finished fourth in Athens in 2004 and won bronze in Beijing four years ago.